FEBRUARY 1999

THE DEDDINGTON NEWS

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THE DEDDINGTON NEWS

FEBRUARY 1999

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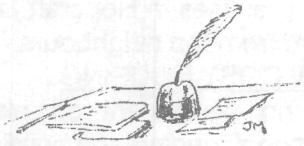


EDITORIAL

Welcome to 1999. This issue is again sixteen pages. I salute the tolerance, and stamina, of the DN's duplicating, collating and delivery teams.

The Parish has not been idle in the last two months. Apart from a host of Christmas-related activities organised by the Churches, Clubs and Schools, there was some memorable Christmas Eve carol singing in the Market Place (see letter), a showing by the Deddington History Society of a fascinating film, 'Twenty Four Square Miles' and, of course, the pantomime, 'Pinocchio'. Jean Flux and Molly Neild wrote and produced the show, Elizabeth Reed arranged the music, roughly 80 separate names appeared in the programme and 500 plus of us (yes, all ages) turned up to occupy the seats for the four performances. (See review.) What a remarkable example of community involvement . Long may it last.

With the New Year comes a Consultation Paper from CDC about possible housing developments in Deddington and the Cherwell area generally. We need to think seriously - NOW - about the options presented in the Paper. There's a copy of the tentative development sites plan in this issue and there will be a special Open Meeting, organised by the Parish Council, March 24, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm. (see P.C. Report.)

Charles Newey asks for a 110% response to the Millennium Management Group's questionnaire. Congratulations to Oliver Lee and Joshua Dredge, winners of the Millennium Hempton Road Cemetery Entrance Gates Competition (see PC Report). Albert Humphries pleads eloquently for volunteers prepared to ensure the Fire Service's continuing presence in Deddington.

The discovery of the Tolkien letters in the Library has aroused considerable local media interest. Frank Steiner writes about Deddington and the Professor in this issue.

It's a pleasure to report that Bill Ivings has secured a place in the Guinness Book of Records for his long service as a bellringer. And, even closer to home, The DN team is delighted that Elizabeth Tothill has agreed to omit the word 'acting' from her job description as Advertising Manager. The DN is financed by its advertising. We sincerely appreciate the confidence placed in us by all those who take out space and underwrite our existence.

Kristin Thompson

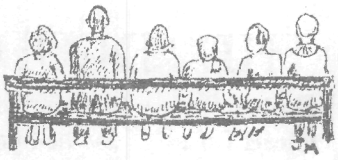
Fridays *Coffee mornings in aid of Katharine House, Parish Church, 10-12*
Fridays *Babies and Toddlers Group, Windmill Centre, 9.30 - 11.30 am*

FEBRUARY DIARY

Mon	1	Monday Morning Club Coffee Morning: Holly Tree, 10 am - noon.
Mon	1	Clifton Residents' Group Meeting. Venue to be announced.
Wed	3	Deddington Ladies: Holly Tree, 8 pm.
Fri	5	Mobile Police Station in Market Place, 4.30 - 6.30 pm.
Mon	8	Deddington Youth Club: Cherwell Sports activities. (p.7)
Tue	9	WI: Nursing in the Community, One of our local nurses. Holly Tree, 7.30 pm.
Wed	10	Friendship Club: Ralph Elsley, Moving Experiences, Windmill Centre 2.30 pm.Visitors welcome
Wed	10	Deddington History Society: J. Blair 'The Anglo Saxon Cherwell Valley', Windmill, 7.30pm (p.7)
Wed	10	Monday Morning Club; Month in the Country, RSC, Stratford. Bus leaves at 6.15 pm. (p. 7).
Wed	17	Parish Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7.30 pm
Tue	23	COPY DATE FOR MARCH DEDDINGTON NEWS
Tue	23	Rural Care Forum. Windmill Centre, 2-4pm.
Wed	24	Friendship Club: Debate, The U N; Its Role in Peace Keeping. Windmill Centre, 2.30 pm.
Wed	24	Deddington Bowls Club: Open Whist Drive, Royal British Legion, 7.30 pm. (p.8)
Sat	27	Deddington School PTA: Family Line Dance and Supper, Windmill Centre 6- 9 pm. (p.4).

Cont. p.16

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



Note of meeting 16 December 1998

Attended by Cllrs Flux (chair), Church, Clarke, Cosgrove, Cox, Davies, Fisher, Hill, Swash, Todd, the Clerk, D/Cllr O'Sullivan and 6 members of the public.

10-MINUTE OPEN FORUM

Mr Ian Sloan, not being resident in the parish, was not allowed to speak. Mr John Cresswell of Hopcraft Lane, Deddington, urged that PC should defer commenting on Solar's application for removal of certain planning restrictions on their premises in Hopcraft Lane, until CDC had heard from the neighbours.

LOW COST HOUSING

Still no agreement on planning constraints, additional funding and building costs.

GRANTS

Subject to submission of an acceptable grant application, PC will consider a request from Arts & Crafts of Deddington for £500 to fund parish-wide participation in Oxford Art Weeks.

PLANNING

PC no objection to: (i) *47 Mill Close* - reduction of willow tree. (Cllr Cox declared interest.) (ii) *The Stone House, Market Place* - renewed permission to convert workshop over garage to studio. (iii) *Land off Milton Gated Road* - erection of storage shed. (Retrospective.) Building has been there 3-4 years, and may continue in agricultural use. (iv) *18 St John's Way, Hempton* - single storey extension. (v) *27 St John's Way, Hempton* - conservatory.

PC objected to: *Deddington Post Office* - an application for change of use from retail to restaurant, because of parking, environmental and access problems, plus loss of village shop.

Solar, Hopcraft Lane

The Chairman allowed Mr Ian Sloan to speak on Solar's application for removal of certain planning restrictions to allow the site to be used for a different purpose and by a different proprietor. All other existing conditions would still apply. PC agreed that these particular restrictions could be lifted, but only for the existing premises. (Cllr Todd declared an interest.)

CDC Approvals: (i) *Castle Dene, Castle Street* 2-storey extension (4 conditions). (ii) *Country Store, Market Place* - change of use to restaurant. (iii) *The Mount, St Thomas St* - double garage and new access: (iv) *Leadenporch House:* change of use from studio to professional pottery, and restoration of tennis court. (v) *St Anne's, Clifton*, - additional window.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- PC requested more information on a proposed survey of hedgerows in the parish.
- Thames Valley Police had indicated that obstruction by parked vehicles had low priority.
- Hempton Stonepit rental to be increased to £360 a year.
- Dane Hill will not be included within the parish boundary.
- Cllr Todd was congratulated on the substantial funds he and Mrs Todd had raised for Macmillan Nurses.
- The Village Steward's workload and priorities are to be reviewed.

MILLENNIUM

At a well-attended public meeting, there had been clear support for a proposal to develop the Town Hall into a major community asset.

INVESTMENT OF PARISH FUNDS

Total £589,262.25, of which £500,000 Bradford & Bingley @ 8.5%; £75,000 Treasury stock @ 5.9375% fixed; £6,859.73 @ 4.5% + £592.78 @ 3.125%, both on 14 days; £6,094.51 + £715.23, both at 3.125% overnight.

BUS SERVICE

Saturdays only, until 10 April 99, Middle Barton to Banbury Service calls at Deddington 9.30am, arriving Banbury 9.49am; leaves Banbury 1pm, arriving Deddington 1.20pm.

YOUTH CLUB PROJECT

Deddington Youth Club has the offer of £300 to fund a Spring project that will benefit the whole community.

Note of meeting 20 January 1999

Attended by Cllrs Flux (chair), Church, Clarke, Cosgrove, Cox, Davies, Harper, Hill, Newey, Swash, Todd, the Clerk, D/Cllr O'Sullivan and 8 members of the public.

10-MINUTE OPEN FORUM

Mr Don McGovern, of Chapel Close, Clifton, expressed concern at the vulnerability of property near vehicles parked by anglers using the lake at Boulderdyke. If fishing on the lake has planning permission, there should be parking on site: if not, there should be no anglers anyway. [See also next page.]

PRECEPT 1999-2000

PC proposes 50% precept next year, at £9730, which equates to £10.96 for a Band D Council Tax payer.

(continued)

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL contd

LOW COST HOUSING

Clarification is needed on what funding is actually in place. PC to pursue.

PLANNING

PC no objection to: (i) *Coniston House, New Street* - necessary structural work on the facade. (ii) *Earls Farm* development proposals - repositioning of garages. PC to re-state request for parking gain. (iii) *Tennis Club* - during League Match Nights, courts may be lit until 10pm.

Vicarage, Earls Lane The proposal to demolish Deddington Vicarage, build a new one plus two houses, provide a new playground and use the present playground in front of the school for parking, raised concerns about safety and traffic flows. The drawings submitted do not show all adjacent properties. PC to ask for more information and an on-site meeting with the planners.

Solar, Hopcraft Lane The director of Solar had written to CDC challenging the accuracy of the official minutes of the PC meeting on 16 Dec 1998. [Relaxation of Conditions..... to allow use of premises by someone other than the applicant and for a different use than currently exists - Prepared to relax the above conditions only in order to allow the existing premises to be marketed.] PC reaffirmed the minute as correct. The recommendation applies only to Solar's premises as they are now. (Cllr Todd declared interest.)

Boulderdyke Fishing Lake, Clifton CDC rejected proposed anglers' car park because of its location. Residents would be subjected to noise/visual intrusion. PC thought fishing should stop until parking issue is resolved.

SITE SEARCH IN DEDDINGTON

There has been no official consultation with PC on proposals to develop the following sites in Deddington.

1 North of Playing Field on Hempton Road.
2 North of Mackley Close.
3 West of The Leyes.
4 North of Earls Lane.
5 North of Clifton Road.
6 South of the Paddocks.
7 East of St Thomas Street.

These proposals are not in the official Community Plan nor the Strategic Plan. [See Map, page 13. Copies are in the Post Office and Library.] CDC planners will be invited to a special meeting at the Windmill Centre on Wed 24 March. PC Planning Group will develop a set of questions to be put to CDC, for answer at the meeting. Parishioners with concerns or opinions are invited to write to the Clerk at the Windmill Centre or to any Parish Councillor, and to attend the meeting.

MILLENNIUM

The public meeting in November 1998 was strongly in favour of developing the Town Hall, and wider consultations will now be put in hand. A questionnaire will be delivered to everyone on the current Electoral Roll. Results should be available at the PC meeting on 17 February. In the Cemetery Gates Design Competition, Joshua Dredge won the primary school section and Oliver Lee the adult section. Each will receive a £25 book token. Mr Lee's design will be developed as a Millennium project.

INVESTMENT OF PARISH FUNDS

£583,118.83 total, of which £500,000 Bradford & Bingley @ 6.4%: £75,000 Treasury stock @ 5.1875% fixed: £6,594.73 + £592.98, both @ 3% on 14 days: £215.89 + £715.23, both @ 2% overnight. The Clerk reported that a 1% drop in interest rates costs the parish £5,000.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Many of the books paid for by PC grant are now in the Library, identified by a Coat of Arms bookplate.
- The seat donated in memory of John Goddard has been installed in Cosy Lane.
- The Town Hall has been reserved for Artweeks, 14-23 May, at £10 a day. Arts & Crafts of Deddington will not require a grant.
- Carers Centre to be granted £200. (Cllr Flux declared interest.)
- A resident has complained about vehicles mounting the pavement in Hudson Street. PC Donohue has the matter in hand. Offences should be reported to him.
- Revised job description of Village Steward to be available at next PC meeting.
- "Members Only" sign to be removed from Windmill tennis court. Windmill facilities are for the benefit of all parishioners.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

First round judging 1-16 May. Second round 29 May-13 June.

RADON GAS

Radon Mobile advice centre in Market Place, Tues 2 Mar, 9.30am-noon; Tues 9 Mar, 4.30pm-7pm; Fri 19 Mar, 9.30am-noon.

MEETINGS

PC meetings Wednesdays 17 February, 17 March, 14 April, Town Hall, 7.30pm

Special Meeting 24 March: Annual Parish Meeting 12 May. PC Annual General Meeting 19 May, all at Windmill Centre.

SCHOOL NEWS

The Christmas holiday saw the delivery of a temporary additional classroom, which has allowed us to expand to seven classes. We have welcomed Miss E. Hyman to teach our Reception Class. The number of children on roll continues to grow but extra Government funding has kept class sizes to an average 26.

Road Safety is a particular concern of mine. Our oldest pupils have been trained in cycling proficiency and all passed the test. A new initiative, "Footsteps", has been introduced for the youngest children. This involves a structured programme of walks with well-briefed parent volunteers, pointing out the dangers of traffic and the basics of crossing the road We were pleased to welcome an expert in Indian Dance who taught the children a number of traditional dances which were then performed to parents. This term's studies include *"Rivers"* for the Juniors and *"Ourselves and our Families"* for the Infants.

Our football team was disappointed to lose to St. Mary's (Banbury) in the "Cup". It was a close match (1-2) with a great many near misses by Deddington. Both our netball and football teams scored very convincing victories over Dr. Radcliffes's School, Steeple Aston. PETER GORINGE

.... and from the PTA

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Market, Santa's Float and our Christmas Raffle.

Dance till you drop! By popular demand we are staging a **Family Line Dance on Saturday February 27, 6-9pm. at the Windmill Centre.** Advance tickets from the Primary School Office or the Post Office, price: £3.50 for adults, £2.50 for children (under fives free), to include a ploughman's supper. We look forward to seeing you there ! RACHEL TEARE 337077

****

DEDDINGTON PRE-SCHOOL

At the end of last term we said goodbye to : Mac Richards, Paige Kaye, Charlotte Whitby, Tom Westbury, Adam Phillips, Katie Calcutt, Holly Boulter, Amber Broadwood, Lucy Ibbotson, Emma Tyers, Matthew Heritage. We wish them all well at school.

We welcome: Matthew Alexander, Henry Middleton-Brewer, Sammy Green, Joshua Kaye, Celia Turnham-Chalmers, Harriet Wimbush, Charlotte Fleming, William Preece.

We held our Christmas party at Barford village hall and a good time was had by all. Thanks to the committee members for all their help. Thank you also to Tony Powell for donating the Christmas tree and to Bev Brady who kindly bought a globe for pre-school.

We hope to organise an Easter Bunny Hunt and a cake stall. Look out for dates nearer the time.

TRACY ROGERS **337383**

❖❖

NORTH OXFORDSHIRE ARTWEEK MAY 15 - 23 1999

Deddington and the surrounding villages are entering Artweek this year as a community. There will be space to exhibit paintings, pottery, jewellery, photography, sculpture, wood carvings and all forms of craft. The Town Hall will be our shop window and information centre. Six Deddington shops have agreed to advertise the exhibition.

We are sure many people spend the winter evenings sewing, embroidering, knitting, making toys etc. We need everyone with craft skills to join us in showing what our community can do. Please, however shy you may feel, phone me to discuss your hobbies and to hear more about our venture.

PEGGY BAKER 338576

❖❖

NEW BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY - Report by GEOFF TODD.

The first batch of new books, purchased with Deddington Parish Council's £1,000 grant, was out on the shelves of the Library for the re-opening after the Christmas/New Year break . The books are a mixture of hard and paper backs, adult fiction and non-fiction, as well as a number of large-print titles and junior editions. Each book contains an acknowledgement of the donation and the Parish Coat of Arms. Librarian Rosemary Arnold said she was delighted to have so many new titles on the shelves at the same time - not that she was expecting them to remain there very long.

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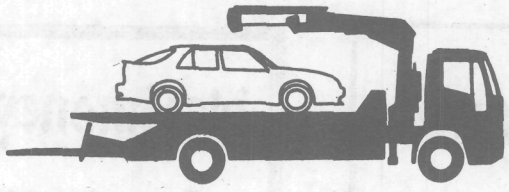

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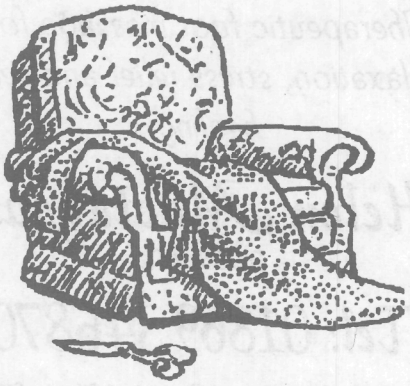

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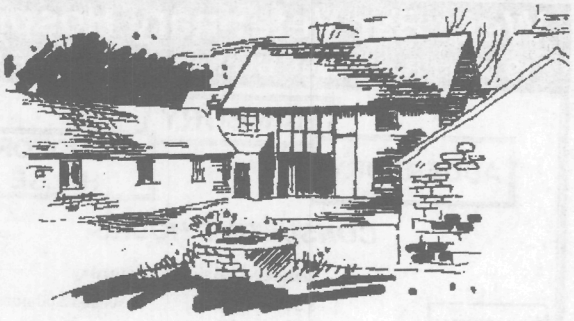

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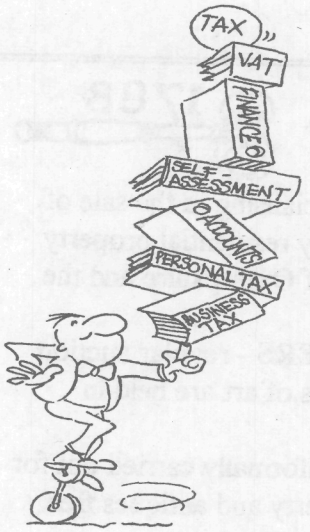

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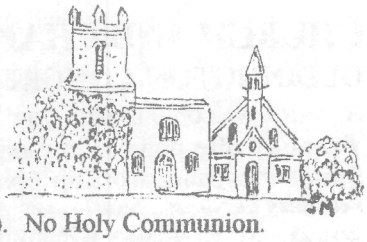

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February Services.

Thu 4 2pm Squeals and Wheels Service.

Sun 7 10.30am Family Service for Candlemas (Presentation of Christ in the Temple). No Holy Communion.

Wed 10 10am Holy Communion. **Sun 14** Sung Eucharist.

Wed 17 Ash Wednesday 8pm Holy Communion with opportunity to receive imposition of ashes. (NO 10am service).

Sun 21 8am Holy Communion (BCP).

10.30am Sung Mattins (BCP). Special preacher: Rev John Rees, Diocesan Dep.Registrar, on "Christianity and the Law".

Wed 24 10am Holy Communion followed by Service of Healing.

Sun 29 10.30am Sung Eucharist. Special preacher: Rev Duleep de Chickera, an Anglican priest from Sri Lanka, on "Working for Peace in Sri Lanka".

Wed 3 March 10am Holy Communion. **Thu 4 March** Squeals and Wheels Pram and Toddlers' Service.

February Services (St John, Hempton).

Sun 7 & 21 9am Eucharist. **Sun 28** 6pm Evensong (BCP).

Lent 1999 There will be a meeting each Thursday evening in SS Peter and Paul Church at 8pm. Members of all Christian denominations (or none) are most welcome to attend. The general theme will be "Christians and Social Issues". Each meeting will begin with a talk by a distinguished speaker. There will be time for comment and questions and then a short act of worship, ending about 9pm. Meetings will be:

February 25 "The Christian attitude towards homosexuality" with Rev Dr Tim Bradshaw, lecturer in Christian Doctrine at Regents Park College, Oxford.

March 4 "The Christian attitude towards drugs" with Mrs Jo Saunders, Social Responsibility officer for the Diocese of Oxford.

March 11 "Marriage, divorce and the Church" with Dr Anne Borrowdale, who sat on the Archbishop's Commission on family life and is author of a book on the subject.

March 18 "The Christian attitude towards Euthanasia" with Rev Nick Fenemore, Senior Chaplain at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

March 25 "Christians and Race Relations" with Mrs Beverley Ruddock, chair of the Diocesan Race Group.

On Sundays in the Parish Church at the 10.30am service the preacher will be relating the Christian faith to his/her work (see services above). In March we shall have a hospital consultant and a lady working for RITES (Religious Investors Taking Ethics Seriously).

Bible Study Groups.

There will be a meeting of the group led by Mrs P. Ridd on Monday 8 February at 2pm in 15 Grove Court. Two new groups are beginning in February. They will meet on Wednesdays (3 & 10 this month) at 8pm. Venues: 1. The Vicarage. 2. 2, The Leyes.

If you would like to join one of these, please contact the Vicar or Bill Dickinson (337050) for further info.

Friday Club for children of Deddington School will meet in the School hall at 3.15pm on 5, 12, 16 February (not 19 Feb which is half term).

Confirmation The next Confirmation Service will be on Sunday 6 June . Preparation meetings will begin in the new year. The vicar would like to know the names of any adults or young people who would like to consider Confirmation as soon as possible.

Homelessness Sunday was 31 January. At the 10.30am Service in the Parish Church a cheque for £725 was presented by the church to Malcolm Smith, Chairman of the Banbury and District Housing Coalition. In addition to raising money for the church roof, the church has also been concerned about roofs over other people with inadequate or no housing.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS:

BAPTISM: 3 January in Deddington Church, HUGO WILLIAM CLIFF.

FUNERALS: 3 December in Deddington Church: LILLIAN GEORGINA SCRIVENER, aged 96 years.

8 December in Deddington Church: RICHARD RONALD WILLIAM MORTIMORE, aged 75 years.

30 December in Deddington Church: IRENE MAY COLES, aged 77 years.

11 January in Oxford Crematorium: DOROTHY JEAN DUCKWORTH, aged 91 years.

13 January in Oakley Wood Crematorium: EVELINE MAUD SCARISBRICK, aged 91 years.

18 January in Deddington Church: JOAN SNOW, aged 87 years.

KEN REEVES (Vicar) 338329 and DAVID NICOL (Curate) 01295 812697.

DEDDINGTON WESLEYAN REFORM CHURCH, Chapel Square

We would welcome you to any of the following services held at 10.30am OR at 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings to share fellowship and Bible Study at Cromwell House, Market Place.

Services in February: Sun 7, 14 & 21 - Pastor I. Walton. **Sun 28** - John Neale.

Pastor ISSY WALTON (337157).

CHURCH AND CHAPEL cont.

DEDDINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, New Street. Secretary Joyce Minnear Tel: 338529

A warm welcome awaits you.

Tuesday afternoon fellowship and Bible study at 2.30pm.

Sunday evening worship 6pm. Preachers as follows:

February Services: Sun 7 - Rev Albert Fox (Communion) **Sun 14** - Mr J. Hine (Kirtlington)
Sun 21 - Mr R. Adkins (Greatworth). **Sun 28** - Mr R. Wilson (Silverstone). Rev ALBERT FOX (345339).

R.C. PARISH OF HETHE WITH ADDERBURY.

Until further notice the times of Mass will be as follows, all Masses being in English.
HETHE: Every weekday at 10am (including Saturday but excluding Wednesday). Sundays - 10am.
Confessions: Saturdays 5.30 - 6pm.
ADDERBURY: Wednesdays - 7pm. Sundays - 8.30am. Confessions: Before Sunday Masses.
ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES: 10am HETHE, 7pm ADDERBURY, Blessing and distribution of ashes.
Parish Priest: Rev A. J. BURNS (277396)
INTER-CHURCH ACTIVITIES:
Mon 15 February 7.45pm Ecumenical prayer group at Cromwell House, Market Place.
Fri 5 March 2pm Women's World Day of Prayer at SS Peter and Paul Church.
Speaker: Sr Elizabeth Tuttle from the Presentation Convent, Bicester.

TRIBUTES:

JOAN SNOW, aged 87 years.
Joan died in St Anne's Residential Home, Clifton, on 6 January. She was the widow of George Snow, bishop of Whitby and was the devoted mother of three sons. Always a wonderful hostess, her light touch, humour, artistic talents and strong Christian faith influenced those around her. George and Joan retired to Corfe Castle, Dorset. After George died, Joan lived on her own until for health reasons she came to St Anne's Home eight years ago. BISHOP JOHN NEALE.

DOROTHY JEAN DUCKWORTH, aged 93 years.
Dorothy lived in South Newington but was more recently resident in Glebefield Nursing Home in Drayton. She leaves a daughter, Myrtle, in Clifton and a son, Cecil, in Worcester. JOHN WHITWELL.

EVELINE MAUD SCARISBRICK, aged 91 years.
Eve was born on the outskirts of Oxford and, after school, went into service as a nanny in Camberly. She married Albert Hammond (Royal Tank Regiment) in 1928 and they had a daughter, Oonagh. Albert served in the 8th Army (North Africa) during WW II where his health deteriorated, and he died shortly afterwards. Eve then married Percy Scarisbrick who had served alongside Albert in N. Africa. They moved to Hempton from Canterbury 11 years ago. A regular churchgoer, she recently attended Deddington Day Care at the Windmill Centre. MICHAEL BELHAM.

RICHARD MORTIMORE, aged 75 years.
Richard resided at the Russell Hotel prior to occupying one of the Alms Houses in Church Street. He leaves a sister in New Zealand. KEN REEVES.

IRENE MAY COLES, aged 77 years.
Irene was born in Banbury. She married Frank just after the war and they lived in Clifton. In 1952 they moved to Adderbury and then to Bodicote. They had three daughters and two sons. Always willing to help others, she was employed by Lord and Lady Elton in Adderbury for a time. KEN REEVES.

LILIAN GEORGINA (MOLLY) SCRIVENER, aged 96 years.
Molly was born in Redbrook, Monmouthshire. Aged 19 years, she worked in London at St Dunstan's. She married Raymond Wilcox and they had two daughters, Maureen and Pauline. After Raymond died, she married Reginald Scrivener. In 1972 they retired to Bournmouth. Reginald died 4 years ago. KEN REEVES.

2000 for 2000
CELEBRATING THE MILLENNIUM
in Deddington Clifton Hempton

If you are over 18, you will by now have received your copy of the Millennium Questionnaire. Although the Open Meeting to discuss ideas for Millennium celebrations was a good start (see Christmas DN), we thought that, especially for things that could cost a lot of money, time and effort, the views of a small meeting weren't sufficient to justify action. So, we are asking what you think about four key aspects: possible Millennium legacy projects, activities for the year 2000, Millennium New Year weekend and the Millennium calendar. Please find time (about 10 minutes) to complete the questionnaire - it's your chance to have a say in what we do ! Closing Date for replies is **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14th.** As an incentive there will be a prize draw from the returned questionnaires, with the winner getting Sunday lunch for two at the Deddington Arms. CHARLES NEWEY 338282

****

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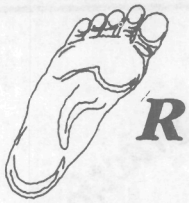

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CALLING ALL CLUBS

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DEDDINGTON GARDENERS

Happy New (gardening) Year! New cards, taking us into the year 2000, will be issued in March. We are celebrating the Millennium by giving existing members free membership. Your cards will arrive through your door towards the end of February. Anyone wishing to join, please contact Marianne Elsley (338251). The joining fee is £2 as usual. Burford Garden Centre (which Marianne highly recommends) needs our club number in order to give us a discount (5%). It is 001027.

Thursday 4 March. 2.30pm We have arranged a visit to the Oxford Botanic Garden to get us in the mood to tackle the spring jobs. Louise Allen will be our guide. The tour will cost £3.50 each (plus transport if we need a minibus). Please phone me to book a place. **ELIZABETH TOTHILL 338186**

MONDAY MORNING CLUB

The Monday Morning Club management is busy with plans for the year ahead. All available tickets for *Month in the Country* at Stratford on Feb. 10 were taken at our January coffee morning, though given the blips life customarily deals our age group it is worth putting yourself on the waiting list if you would like to go. The bus leaves from the Market Place, 6.15 pm as usual. At the Feb. 1 coffee morning we shall have tickets for *Midsummer Night's Dream* at the RSC on March 31 and for Ben Jonson's *Volpone*, the RSC on June 2. On Saturday, May 15, we hope to arrange a trip to Bletchley Park, site of the World War Two Code-breaking Establishment. The 40 acre grounds now house a number of exhibits connected with the period. Final plans should be complete by the March 1 coffee morning. **JEAN FLUX 338153**

DEDDINGTON BROWNIES

In November we organised a sponsored run/walk/cycle ride (Brownies chose the method they preferred) on Mr & Mrs Nobbs' farm road; we are most grateful to them for giving us permission. 14 Brownies, one Guide and Elenya McGovern, raised the magnificent sum of £388.04. We were able to donate £194.02 each to the Deddington Church Appeal and Oxford Group of the Downs Syndrome Assn. Many thanks to the Brownies who worked so hard, and to their generous sponsors.

Most Brownies took their Seasons (autumn) badge, some went to the Division Brownie Fun Day in Banbury, some to the Remembrance Sunday service and each made a decorated photograph frame for her own picture wearing Brownie uniform as a Christmas present for the family.

A number of Brownies have moved on to Guides lately. Maggie Rampley and Glynis Eastwood run an excellent guide company and deserve the support of girls in the area. We welcome Kate Garrett, Emily Baker, Natasha Large and Amy Robertson who have joined us this term. We have a busy, fun programme planned. A highlight will be Pack Holiday in Norfolk at the end of July which we are sharing with Sibford Brownies. *Date for the future: joint Scout/Guide/Cub/Brownie cake stall on Sat, March 20, 9-11 the Town Hall.* Offers of cakes would be much appreciated. **VIVIEN PLEYDELL BOUVERIE 338269**

DEDDINGTON AND DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

It was standing room only for our first meeting of 1999 at the Windmill Centre. Many people from Deddington and elsewhere took the opportunity to see the famous documentary film *Twenty-four Square Miles*, a record of life in this area in 1946. The event was made more instructive and enjoyable by a commentary and discussion led by David Eddershaw, who provided the film, and by the fact that we were privileged to have in the audience some of the film's stars, looking hardly any older than fifty years ago! The same could hardly be said of the countryside and its villages. We all know what great changes there have been over the past half century, but few things bring them home more forcefully than does that film. At our next meeting (Windmill Centre, Wed. Feb. 10, 7.30 pm) the speaker will be John Blair of The Queen's College, Oxford, one of the country's leading experts on the Anglo Saxon period; his subject, the *Anglo-Saxon Cherwell Valley.* He might even be able to tell us who Daeda was ! Everyone welcome.

CHRIS DAY 337204

DEDDINGTON CRICKET CLUB

Traditionally a quiet period, we wait for the two tonnes of loam spread on the square to do its work over the winter. We have also been playing in the indoor 6-a-side league at Spiceball, not with the same success as in the summer, but it keeps one's hand in and makes the new season practice less stressful on the muscles. Our indoor Nets begin on Sun. March 7 at Spiceball, 10.30 am. We will have three nets including one exclusively for Juniors. Anyone who wants to find out more about the Club is very welcome. Finally, the wheels of Lottery admin. turn very slow. We hope to hear in mid-to-end February whether our bid has been successful. **MICK MERRICK 338876**

DEDDINGTON YOUTH CLUB

We had a good Christmas party and it was nice to see some parents who joined us for a drink and mince pies. On January 18 there was an enjoyable ice skating trip to Oxford. On February 8 Cherwell Sports are coming to organise some activites and Angel Arts are due in the coming weeks.

Sadly Matt Smith, our Assistant Leader, is leaving us. He is being replaced by Marc Wright, a sports lecturer and co-ordinator at North Oxfordshire College with many interest and qualifications - we welcome him to the Club. We are always in need of voluntary help. **GAY BREWER 338097**

CALLING ALL CLUBS cont.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Meetings have been resumed after the Christmas holidays. We look forward to seeing new faces and visitors as well as old friends at Ralph Elsley's talk on Moving Experiences, at the Windmill Centre on February 10. **I.M. ROBINSON 338636**

DEDDINGTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

1st Team results

Brize Norton(a) (Oxfordshire Junior Shield)	Lost	0-4
Sinclair(a)	Lost	0-5
Bishops Itchington(h)	Drew	2-2 G.Shawyer(2)
Sinclair(h) (Coronation Cup)	Lost	1-6 M.Cadd

A disappointing month for the 1st Team. In the League match against Bishops Itchington, Greg Shawyer scored both goals to help Deddington to come back from being 2-0 down. Despite these results the team are still in contention for the runners' up spot in the Premier Division.

Reserve Team results

Broughton & North Newington Res(h)	Drew	2-2 M. Hawkins, M.Howells
Kings Sutton Res(h)	Drew	1-1 M.Howells
Kings Sutton(a)	Lost	2-5 M.Howells(2)

Not a great month for the Reserve Side either. There were two useful League draws but the dreadful away form continues. Martin Howells has enjoyed a good month, scoring in each game.

STEVE PLUMBE 01295-278258

DEDDINGTON ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Christmas and New Year activities were well supported, thanks to our members, guests and our hard-working committee. Please watch the DN Diary and notice boards for details of future events.
Members are reminded that unpaid subs are now well overdue. We will be obliged to send all unclaimed membership cards back to Headquarters. Affected persons' memberships wiill cease, preventing their admission even as a guest. We value all members and hope that arrears will be paid. **PHIL CHARD 338786**

DEDDINGTON GUIDES

Christmas activities seem so long ago now! We rounded off the term with a Christmas party organised by a small committee, which everyone enjoyed. We also spent a hectic evening wrapping "pass the parcels" for the Brownies and Cubs, children's church clubs and playgroups. Several of the guides sang carols and helped at the Wardington House Nursing Home Christmas party.
This term we have begun plans for our spring show and the patrols have been busily planning their own activities. We've got "stuck in" to making scrap books for small children for the doctors' waiting room and made "s'mores" toasted marshmallow and biscuits, so tasty you want "s'more"! First Aid and knots have also been keeping us busy this term.
We are growing and have been delighted to welcome more and more new girls to Guides - so if you're over 10, come and join us. We'd love to meet you. **MAGGIE RAMPLEY 01295 810069**

DEDDINGTON BEECHES BOWLS CLUB

In our indoor match at Banbury on January 9, a sterling performance against Lower Heyford that was close on all four rinks, yielded a win by 59 shots to 56. This followed 2 victories out of 3 during our Winter Tour to Okehampton. Open Whist Drives are arranged for Wed. February 24 and March 24, 7.30 pm prompt at the Royal British Legion Club. These are full 32 hand progressive drives with at least six prizes on offer; they are also fun. Full bar facilities and hot drinks available at half time. Newcomers to the game are welcomed warmly. Please support us - you will enjoy it! **JOHN CLIFFORD 340564**

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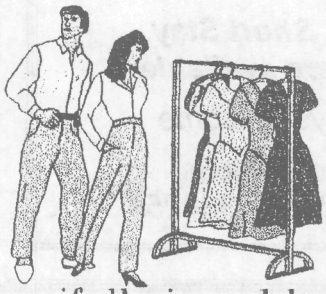

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FROM THE EDITOR'S POSTBAG

FROM MRS L. MERRICK, MURDOCK CLOSE, DEDDINGTON
May I, through the Deddington News, thank all those who have called, given cards and presents, and wished me well on the birth of my son Oliver Michael Merrick on the 11th December 1998

FROM RALPH AND AUDREY STEWART, "CLYDESDALE" DEDDINGTON
We should like to express our thanks to the Deddington Arms and the Blacksmith's Forge for their generous contributions of wine for the hugely successful and enjoyable carol singing and mulled wine experience on Christmas Eve.We also say Thank You to the people of Deddington who contributed £140 for the Church Restoration Fund that evening.

FROM THE CROSS FAMILY, HIGH STREET, DEDDINGTON
Joyce, Paddy and family would like to thank friends and neighbours for their cards, messages of sympathy and floral tributes after their sad loss. Thanks also to those who attended the service.

E-MAIL FROM KAREN WALTON, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA, USA
We just purchased our computer and I was searching under my Mom's (Rosemary Adkins) home town of Banbury. She was born and raised there, together with her 5 brothers and sisters. One of her sisters, Joyce Cotton, now lives in Hempton and, I believe, works in Deddington.
My Mom moved here in 1961 when she married my American Dad who was in the U.S. Airforce at the time. I have two sisters and we were born and raised in Huntsville. I am 35 now, married and with three children of my own. This is a beautiful town, with a lot of government contract and space programme-related business, and we have professional baseball and ice-hockey teams. My husband, Scott, is a big bass fisherman who travels widely on competitions. I feel strongly connected to my English roots and really enjoyed visiting your website. It brought back happy memories of my last visit in 1976. I think England is a beautiful place, with its rolling hills, thatched cottages and beautiful castles. Deddington also is beautiful, rich with history, and I hope to return again some day.
(Delighted to hear from Karen. Puck girdled the earth in forty minutes. Since the arrival of the website we've been doing rather better than that. Ed.)

E-MAIL FROM JUDY WAITE, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
I have just visited the Deddington website and noticed the e-mail address for the newsletter. I am researching my family's history and in the late 1700s, and certainly in the twenty years after, they were in the Deddington area. They were - Thomas Waite and Love Brotherton who were married in 1805. Unfortunately Thomas and his son, John, were poor and (perhaps) hardly honest and were shipped out to Tasmania in 1828 as convicts. It would be a delight if anyone could supply me with even a scrap of information about them or the historical Deddington... With thanks.
(This is an on-going correspondence. More details next month. Ed.)

E-MAIL FROM SIMON PIPE, BBC THAMES VALLEY
Has there been any development in the Tolkien episode ? Did you find out what his past connection with the village had been ? And did he leave a volume as he promised, do you know ? If there's any new information I'd love to hear it.

THE TOLKIEN QUESTION

The answer to the Editor's question (D.N.December 1998), why J.R.R. Tolkien (of "Hobbit" fame) thought he would not be able to resume or continue his visits to Deddington, can probably be found in Humphrey Carpenter's biography of the great man. The simplest answer is that, having run a car for 10 years or so before 1939, the Tolkien family never had another car after the war. But, equally based on Carpenter, I suspect that the reasons for this self-denying ordinance lay in opinions where Tolkien's views overlapped in his life and his work. He was an environmentalist before the word had come into use, and when his biographer speaks of his not resuming motoring when he had seen what the car had done to the landscape, there are echoes of the Scouring of the Shire in the last volume of the "Lord of the Rings". Tolkien felt an almost mystical link with the countryside. He disapproved of mechanised agriculture, compared with traditional farming as he recalled it from an idealised childhood memory. His nostalgia was particularly strong for the part of the West Midlands which he regarded as the heart of his England, and he must have passed through Deddington many times when driving from North Oxford on his country tours. So, carless after the war, he would no longer have come here until the occasion of his opening the Branch Library. FRANK STEINER

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FIRE SERVICE

FIRE CALLS : 1998 - during December 15 calls were received: 4 road traffic accidents, 1 car fire, 1 rubbish fire, 1 fire in coffee cyclone at Kraft Jacob Suchard, 2 calls to a barn fire at Great Rollright, 1 chimney fire and 5 calls to stand by at other stations. This brought the total to 150 for the year.

1999 - a slow start to the year with only 8 calls received: 2 road traffic accidents, 1 bedroom fire, 3 chimney fires, 1 call to flooding and 1 call to stand by at another station.

TRAINING : Phil and Val Beater have both passed a one week's basic training course run by the Brigade Training team at the Slade Fire Station, Oxford. Phil and Val joined us as soon as they moved into the area a few months ago. They have become very much part of the team, well liked (and cheeky with it). It's a pleasure having them with us.

CREWING NEWS : During 1998 crewing levels improved greatly and we managed to turn out most of the time but things are not looking so good for the immediate future. Because Solar Design are moving their workshop to Chipping Norton, Andrew Hayward will no longer be available in the daytime. Anne Waters is expecting a baby in late July and is on light duties only. Readers may be aware that both Andy and Anne are leading firefighters and are at present the only drivers available in the daytime, which means that Martin Freeman and Rachel Lewis must get through driving tests as quickly as possible. Even when they have passed their tests they then have to drive 150 miles on training nights or back from fires before having to do a two-day rapid response course. Only after passing this course are they allowed to drive on call-outs. This in turn means that although at times there will be 4 personnel available in the daytime (depending what shift Phil and Val are on) there will be no one qualified to drive. We have one new recruit, Jeremy Boulduc, who will be giving cover at nights and weekends once he passes his initial training. We are desperate for day cover. Perhaps there are people who only work in Deddington but live elsewhere, whose employers would release them during working hours? Or are there some housewives who could give us day cover? We have 3 girls on Station already who thoroughly enjoy what they are doing. It is down to everyone out there. How much do you value having a Fire Station on your doorstep ready to help save your property or family, instead of having to wait up to 20 minutes for an appliance to come from elsewhere? I cannot believe that in Deddington, Hempton or Clifton there is nobody suitable or available.

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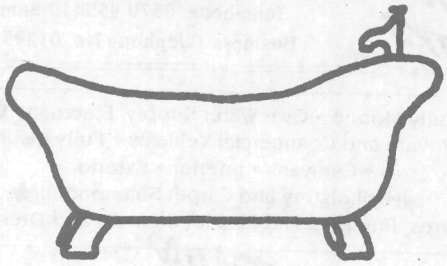

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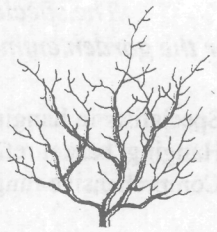

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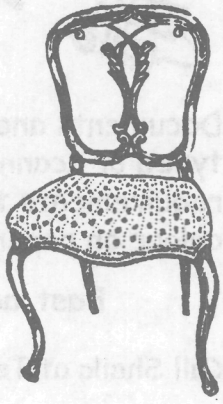

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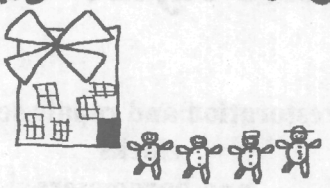

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NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Jayne Taylor at Banbury Police Station is in charge of Neighbourhood Watch for this part of Oxfordshire and she would like to hear from anyone who may be interested in setting up a scheme in Clifton. Examples of the type of information that has been passed to villagers in this area recently include warnings to be on the look-out for people trying to buy antiques at the door, church break-ins, and mobile wet-fish sellers charging exorbitant prices for a bit of fish. If you want to know more, ring Jayne on 01295 754611. We now have a village bus service again: Stagecoach Midland Red operates a daily service (Monday to Saturday) to Banbury via Aynho. Thanks to Oxfordshire County Council we have all received a timetable, but it is difficult to understand. According to Midland Red the 499 circular service leaves Banbury Bus Station at 06.58 each morning, arriving in Clifton at 07.25 and eventually arriving back at Banbury at 08.09. In the evening it leaves Banbury at 18.00, arrives in Clifton at 18.40, gets back to Banbury at 19.07. For more informaton ring Stagecoach on 01788 535555. OCC says it expects the pipe laying works on the main road to be complete by 29 January. **JACKIE WILLIAMSON 337128**

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

I start my first column of the New Year with the marvellous news that St. John the Evangelist Church is shortly to have its first wedding in its 150 year history. There have been Marriage Blessings in the church but no Wedding ceremonies. The wedding will be on Saturday 6 March, when Miss Tessa Montague, youngest daughter of Sue and Andy Montague of Hempton, marries Mr. Raymond Philip Faure, only son of Philip and Matilda Faure of Kloof, South Africa, at 12.00 noon. The extension to the Church and Hall is nearing completion and will be of great benefit to the community when finished.
Two more happy events were the Carol Service with Deddington Parish Church choir and carol singing round the village. After the former, the Great Draw raised £250 for the Friends of Hempton Church. Winner of the first prize was Angela Waller. £76 was raised for Katharine House during the singing round the village and thanks are due to Tony Campion for his musical support. John and Maurice Humphris have written to say how pleased they are that the Church is still open, as over ten years ago Rev. Hannah had told them that it would be closing. Well done, everyone, but we need more people at Church services, particularly Evensong.
Our condolences to her family on the death of Eve Scarisbrick. **LES CHAPPELL 338054**

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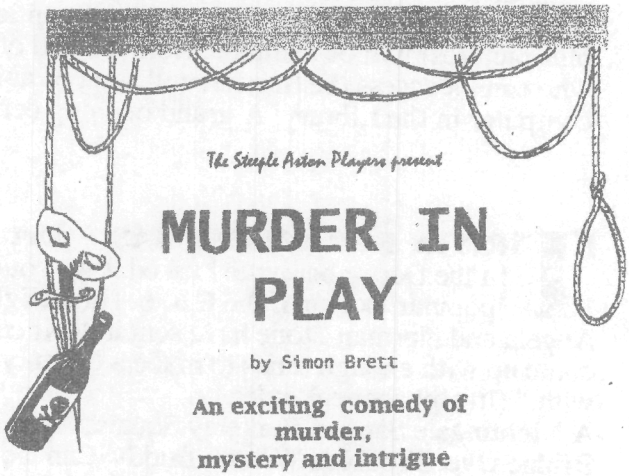

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THE WAY WE WERE Deddington 150 years ago by Buffy Heywood

Extracts from the diaries of the Rev. Cotton Risley for January and part of February 1849:
1st JANUARY - A fine day tho' dull and raw cold - the commencement of the new year! May a gracious providence vouchsafe that I may spend the same more profitably than I have done in the past year! And may He bless and prosper my dearest wife and children! I went to Oxford to attend the Sessions at which there were 50 prisoners for trial. Stayed at The Mitre.
5th JANUARY - Finch and others were busied in filling the Ice House. (*The Ice House is still in the grounds of Deddington Manor*)
15th JANUARY - A poacher found at Great Tew with three live pheasants and 20 snares. Col. Bowles and I convicted him, £2 penalty and 50/-d. costs or 6 weeks hard labour. He could not pay and was committed.
27th JANUARY - Our dear Johnny's birthday. He completed his 14th year.
1st FEBRUARY - Went to Oxford and voted for Mr. Hester as one of the Surgeons to be appointed at the Infirmary.
2nd FEBRUARY - Our dear boys, Willy and Johnny, left for Marlborough by Viggers coach, they left in tolerable spirits - we were very dull the whole day. We did not dine till 4 o'clock - the boys not rising so early as usual from being up till nearly 6 o'clock on their return from Mr. Dormer's Ball, which passed off very pleasantly and agreeably.
5th FEBRUARY - Our dearest Holford left us again for Cheshunt, let us hope for the last time. We were in the dumps accordingly. We dined at 2 o'clock, just as we had finished dinner an explosion of gun powder took place in the Saddle Room, owing to the boy Richard Finch having got hold most improperly of a canister nearly full deposited there in a safe place - during the absence of Thomas the groom whilst exercising the horses. How it happened we know not - except that as he was playing with it near the stove which was burning it ignited - and lacerated his thumb very seriously - though we hope not dangerously - set fire to his clothes which were obliged to be cut off his body - and blew the windows of the Saddle Room clear out. Luckily the door was wide open - the explosion therefore was deprived materially of its destructive properties - and his life was in all probability thus saved. Mr. Turner's assistant was in immediate attendance on him at his father's whither he was removed within a few minutes after the accident, who considered he had had a most providential escape. The bell tolled for poor old Ben Cowley, the sawyer, in his 88th year.

DEDDINGTON ONLINE

The site is being continuously improved and expanded. An even more user-friendly way of quickly navigating the website will be in place very shortly and it is intended that opportunities for expanded business entries (more words plus pictures) will be available from the end of February. Those of you without computers and who cannot access the Internet will soon be able to browse the website via a dedicated computer in the Library. A grand opening ceremony is planned. Watch this space.....

CHARLES NEWEY 338282

TRIVIA FOR CHRISTMAS - part 2.

In the December issue I asked if we could compile a list of the fifty most memorable 'popular' songs of the C20th. I'm delighted to report a response, both actual and promised. Angela and Norman Stone have sent in their contribution. Norman writes: "I'm sure readers can come up with enough tunes to make a Century of Songs. Here are a couple of dozen to be going on with." (In alphabetical order.)
A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square: April in Paris: Begin the Beguine: Blowing in the Wind: Bridge Over Troubled Waters: Buddy, Can You Spare a Dime: Every Time We Say Goodbye: Je ne Regrette Rien: Keep the Home Fires Burning: Lili Marlene: One More for the Road: Over the Rainbow: Send in the Clowns: September in the Rain: Sing as We Go: Smoke Gets in Your Eyes: Stardust: The Way we Were: These Foolish Things: Two Sleepy People: We Shall Overcome: Yesterday: Yours.
Send in your titles. We'll keep space for them in the DN for the next few months. Definitive list of 50 (or 100 ?) when your musical memories have come to an end. (Ed.)

PAT BRITTAIN reminds us to save the 'Free Books for Schools' tokens from the *Times* newspaper and Walker's Crisps. The Primary School benefits from this initiative.

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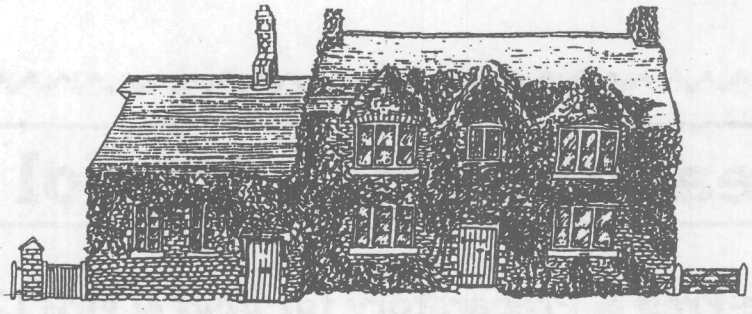

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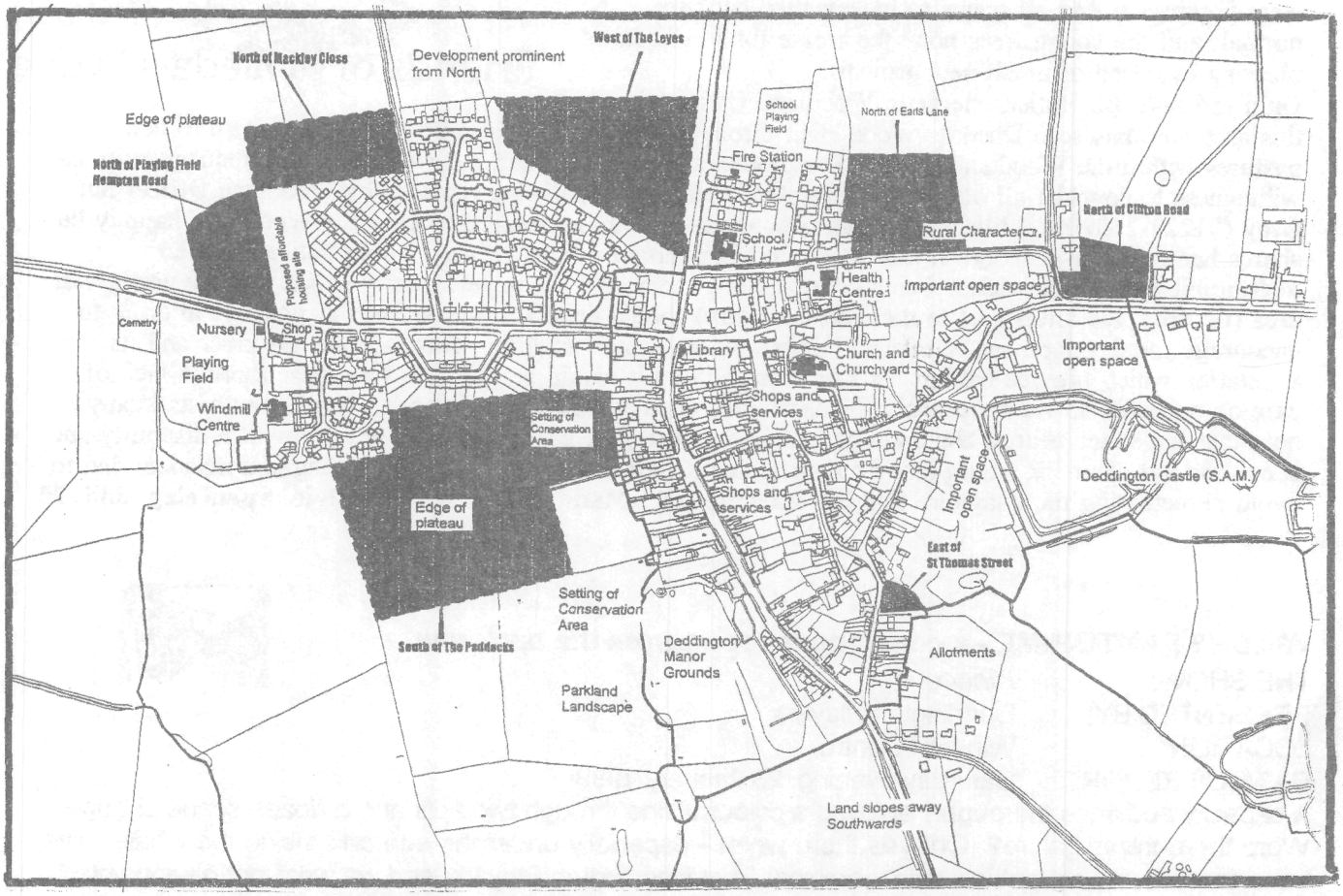

COPY OF DEDDINGTON MAP TO BE STUDIED IN CONJUNCTION WITH CDC'S PUBLIC CONSULTATION PAPER ON THE CHERWELL LOCAL PLAN - HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE RURAL AREAS

(The shaded areas mark *possible* sites for further development.)

POLICE NEWS

Reported crimes within the parish for 1998 have remained static with 70 crimes being recorded. Thefts of and from motor vehicles remain high with 28 vehicles attacked over the year. 7 houses suffered a burglary and 7 other premises were also attacked. This included commercial premises and garden sheds. There were again 9 reports of criminal damage and vandalism committed over the year. Most occurred at the Windmill Centre and were caused by children. There were 4 assaults in the village during 1998 as compared with none the previous year. However - do not be alarmed as they were committed by young men on young men. So it is still safe to walk around the Parish without fear.

Clifton reported 5 crimes and Hempton 4, all thefts of or from motor vehicles. I would like to see a decrease in recorded crime during 1999 and I need your help to achieve this. All I ask you to do is to make sure your house doors and windows are kept locked; that you secure your garages and garden sheds and your motor vehicles; that you do not leave personal belongings on view in your car.

An example of how the criminal works is as follows: in April 1998, 3 persons booked into one of the hotels in the Market Place for two nights. Then, on both nights, they left the hotel in the early hours. Their goal was to steal from motor cars. Over the two nights they attacked 9 vehicles in the Market Place and Hudson Street. They were arrested 2 days later doing the same thing in Banbury. They had also spent a night in Bicester. In total they had broken into over 20 vehicles in 5 nights.

PC BOB DONOHUE 01295 754754 (new number)

RURAL CARE FORUM is meeting on Tuesday, 23 February, 2-4 pm, Windmill Centre. The Forum meets three times a year to receive information about developments in health and social care in rural Oxfordshire. It gives advice and shares information about projects and good local practice. Anyone with an interest in rural Oxfordshire is welcome to attend.

Friends of Daeda's Wood

By all accounts for a few hours the floods at Daeda's Wood were impressive, but all seems to have settled back to normal, and the young trees none the worse for it. There is pleasing evidence of much new growth.
On a sad note Jill Butler, energetic Woodland Officer for this area who has seen Daeda's Wood right through from its barley field days, is moving on to new pastures within the Woodland Trust. She promises to keep in touch but we'll miss her frequent visits and willingness to consider all our likely and unlikely ideas. She is being replaced by Woodland Officer Ian Gray (01223-263209). Jill brought Ian over recently to be introduced to Daeda's Wood and happily he shares her enthusiasm. Both raised a couple of important points. Firstly it was noticed that an undesirable well worn track is being created along the Swere. It is particularly hoped that the north-west area (i.e. from the lower seat to the west boundary) should be left as undisturbed as possible in order to encourage the development of natural habitat and attendant wildlife. This includes the river and its vegetation which provide habitat for rare damselflies. It would be tragic to lose these through lack of care on our part, so we appeal to all walkers (and dogs especially!). Secondly, would motorists kindly note that the space nearest the main gate is intended to give easy access for anyone with a disability and should be left clear. It would also be appreciated if more care were taken in parking and manoeuvring to avoid perpetuating the quagmire that has been created. Many thanks. **Sylvie Spenceley 338995**

WHICH? PANTOMIME - a consumer's report from the back row

THE SHOW: *Pinocchio*
PRESENTED BY: Deddington Players
LOCATION: Windmill Centre
DATE OF REPORT: Saturday evening, 23 January 1999

A capacity audience thoroughly enjoyed a colourful ride through two acts and a dozen scene changes. Were there treats galore? Oh! yes there were! - especially under the sea and inside the whale. We have come to expect enthusiastic teamwork from Deddington Players, and we were not disappointed. Everything that was good, and the little that was not so good, is reflected in the following assessment - the more stars the better.

***** Enthusiasm. Teamwork. Costumes. Audience. Lighting.
**** Stage Management. Set. Props. Effects. Front of house. Finale.
*** Acting. Music. Stagecraft. Storyline. Dancing. Refreshments. Bar. Programme.
** Diction. Opening scenes. Jokes.
* Local references. Topical satire.

SPECIAL AWARDS Jiminy Cricket. Lucifer the Cat. The Marionettes. The Whale.

NORMAN STONE

Deddington Map Group

In this issue of the *News*, the first in 1999, you will find leaflet no 3 in our *Mapping the Millennium* series, funded by Rural Action. We call it *Historical Characters of the Parish of Deddington*, a title that is unwieldy but accurate. Like everything the Map Group does, it is a team effort involving a variety of skills and the most reliable information we can find. Special thanks to Chris Day, Ken Langstaff, Wendy Meagher, Colin Robinson, Mary Robinson and Peter Terry. We are grateful to the National Portrait Gallery for allowing us to base the illustrations of Piers Gaveston and Sir William Scroggs on originals in their possession; likewise to Trinity College, Oxford, holders of the original portrait of Sir Thomas Pope. Photographs of Franklins 1895 workforce and of the Hobart Chancel Screen are reproduced by kind permission of the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies. The portrait of Bishop Odo is drawn from one of the two representations of him in the Bayeux Tapestry. Surprisingly, we could find no authentic portraits of other historical characters like Cotton Risley and Duffel Faulkner. If you know of any, please contact me. Another request - does anyone know where we could see a copy of *The Shepherd's Kalendar*, published by MF - otherwise the Revd. Maurice Frost - Deddington Vicarage 1956, or *A Touchstone for Times Present*, another of Frost's publications?

NORMAN STONE 338019

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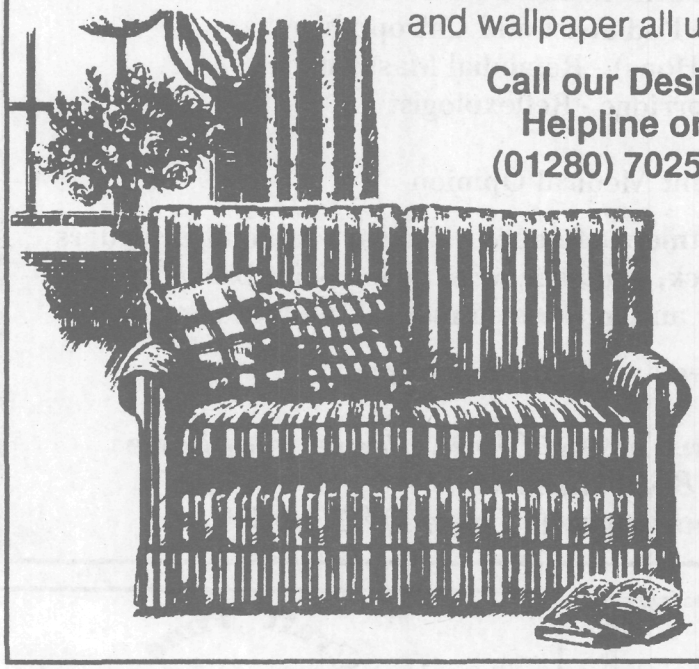

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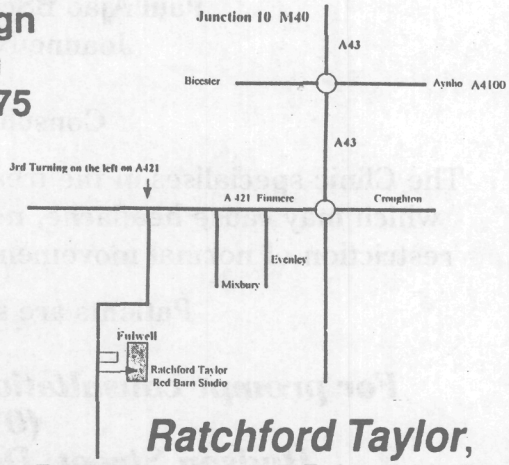

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Please telephone Stephen Bunce (Chartered Accountant) or Jill Liebscher (Taxation Specialist) on (01869) 337550 or 337577.

ON THE FARM

The New Year started the same as the old year finished: mild, wet, muddy and dismal. The ground has been too wet to start all but a few of the planned winter jobs. We have a lot of ditching and willow pollarding to do but as yet the JCB has not moved out of the yard and now refuses to start. Perhaps the old lady needs a bit of TLC or a large hammer!

Despite the very wet autumn and difficult drilling time the crops look quite well. The winter beans were planted in late November and are only now just starting to show, so we shall just have to wait and see if they will be any good. The spring beans should be planted by mid-February but the ground is still too wet to plough so a radical rethink on them may have to be undertaken.

The ewes came in some 3 weeks early due to the weather and ground conditions. It got so wet that even the quad bike got bogged down just getting the feed down to them. The ewes should start to lamb at the start of March, some 14 days later than last year. After last year's flood I hope it will be dry enough for them to go back out by then.

Again this year with the mild weather the Queen bees have started to lay and many have now got broods. This is some 4 weeks earlier than the normal and so to avoid the problems we had last year I am giving them extra feed in the hope that I can keep them going until there is sufficient natural food for them.

January is always a dismal time of the year. It's a bit of a job to get going again after Christmas and the New Year. 'Another year older and deeper in debt' as the song goes. This January was rather sad for me when I lost my old house cow. I bought her as a heifer almost 23 years ago and milked her by hand for the house, but over the last few weeks life got very difficult for her and I could see she was not going to recover. I did not want her to suffer any longer so I made the very difficult decision to have her put down. A few days later I told a doctor friend what had happened. His comment was that at least I was able to help an old friend out of her suffering but he was not allowed to. This is a funny old world we live in.

GEORGE FENEMORE 338203

GARDENING NOTES

Well, it isn't exactly a flower garden at the time of writing, though the bloom count looks quite impressive on paper. We have Snowdrops (not drifts but four flowers), a few Primroses, Jasmine, Viburnam, Mahonia and a few yellow climbing roses. The bulbs are poking through the ground. Another few weeks and we'll be there. So it's time for inspecting the tools and sorting out. I have a sentimental attachment for bottles of spray, long since gone off the boil, and for old seed packets: the sort of seeds that are given away with Gardening Magazines and which I really never wanted or intended to use in the first place. I might just throw them out. The mice have found a half-used pack of lawn seed and scattered the seeds inside a garage cupboard so out with that lot. In the tools department, I shall send my secateurs to Felco again. They now charge £6.95 for putting in a new blade and servicing. Probably worth it as a new pair costs over £30. (I have their address and particulars). We have emptied the compost bin and spread the contents over the beds before the bulbs come up too far. Before the end of the month I shall pick some branches of Forsythia and American currant and force them in a warm room. They are always such a joy and we can pretend that Spring is here.

MARIANNE ELSLEY

'a sentimental passion of a vegetable fashion... for a bashful young potato' (W.S. Gilbert) Potatoes are still, I think, a basic vegetable. Despite various suggested slimming diets they can supply an important part of the required fibre in our daily eating. Now is the time to buy the early potatoes which when planted can give us those delicious flavoured 'new' potatoes cooked with a couple of sprigs of fresh mint. There are various 'earlies', but Maris Bard and Ulster Sceptre are the earliest. Potatoes should be about the size of a small hen's egg, set out in wooden trays in a light room. Shoots will appear in 5-6 weeks. Plant about 5" deep in a trench, 12" apart and 24" between rows. Shoots should be covered if there is danger of frost. Earth up when haulm is about 8" high. Wait until flowers are fully open and then carefully dig around tubers. If potatoes are of similar size to the 'seed' then you can enjoy your first new potatoes of the year. How about a few more allotmenteers joining us and enjoying their own-grown new potatoes?

THELMA DOVER

DIARY CONT.

MARCH DIARY

Mon	1	Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10 till noon. (p.7).
Tue	2	Radon Mobile Advice Centre: Market Place, 9.30 am. - noon (p.3)
Wed	3	Deddington Ladies: Holly Tree, 8 pm
Thu	4	Deddington Gardeners: visit to Oxford Botanic Garden, depart 2.30 pm. (p.7).
Fri	5	Women's World Day of Prayer, Deddington Church, 2 pm.
Sun	7	Deddington Cricket Club: Indoor Nets begin, Spiceball, 10.30 am.(p.7).
Tue	9	Mobile Police Station in Market Place, 2 - 4pm.
Tue	9	WI: AGM, Holly Tree, 7.30 pm.
Wed	10	Friendship Club: Alice Myerscough Bell, South Africa, Windmill, 2.30 pm. Visitors welcome.
Wed	10	Deddington History Society: S. Stradling, Vernacular Architecture of the Region Windmill, 7.30 pm.
Sat 13/Sun 14		Waste Paper Skip in the school yard,
Wed	17	Parish Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7.30 pm.
Sat	20	Scout/Guide/Brownie cake stall under the Town Hall, 9-11 am. (p.7).
Sat	20	Banbury Symphony Orchestra Concert, Parish Church, 8 pm.
Tue	23	COPY DATE FOR APRIL DEDDINGTON NEWS
Wed	24	Parish Council Open Meeting, to discuss new rural housing options. Windmill Centre 7.30pm.
Wed	24	Deddington Bowls Club: Open Whist Drive, Royal British Legion, 7.30 pm. (p.8).
Sat	27	Choros performance of St John's Passion, Parish Church, 7.30 pm.
Wed	31	Monday Morning Club: Midsummer Night's Dream, RSC, Stratford. Bus leaves 6.15 pm. (p.7).

Reminder: If you are planning a village event, and consult the diary editor before you fix the final date, she will be able to advise you whether any other group already has plans for the same day that might draw off your potential support. Of course, if you then register your fixture with her well in advance, she will be able to advise other groups to avoid competition.

Rights and Responsibilities... Over the past year we have been preparing a Deddington Circular Walk on behalf of the Parish Council. This will become an addition to the series of circular walks subsidised by the Cherwell District Council, each described in a leaflet with map and detailed directions. The Deddington Circular Walk and its leaflet should be available very shortly - watch for news in the DN. This project could not have been accomplished without the agreement and goodwill of all the landowners concerned for which we are most grateful. It was therefore disturbing to learn recently from one landowner of a serious case of sheep worrying by a dog belonging to Deddington residents. Could we please all remember the Country Code which requests us to keep dogs on leads.

Sylvie and George Spenceley

Tracey Smith

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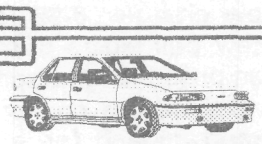

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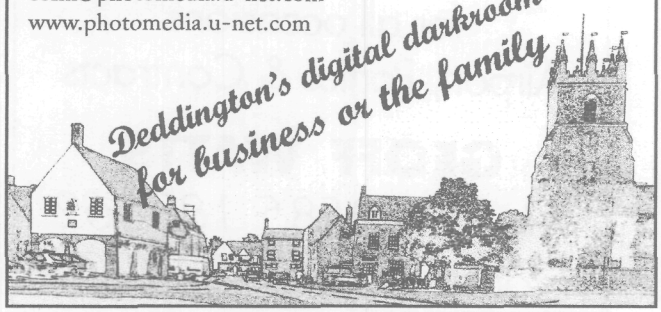

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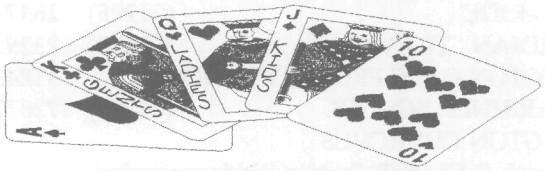

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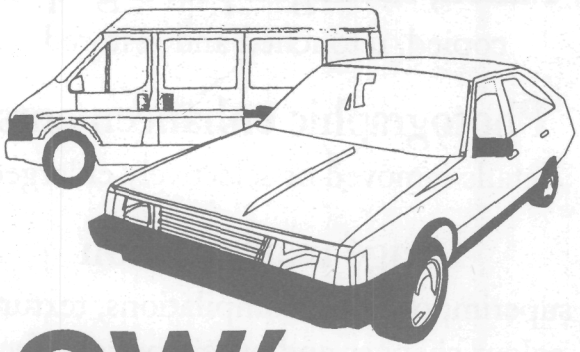

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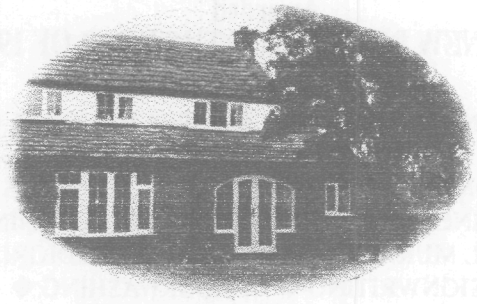

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